



North American Martyrs Church

November 13, 2022 | Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

PASTOR

Rev. Frederick D. Fraini, III

OFFICE STAFF

Susan Zammarelli, Secretary
Lisa Burkitt, Religious Ed. Director,
Safe Environment Coordinator

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7 a.m. | Saturday 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Vigil) | Sunday 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



Rectory Office Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Thursday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Religious Ed Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

508-798-0612

BAPTISMS: Please contact the parish office for assistance or visit <https://namartyrsauburn.org/baptism> for detailed information and to obtain the Godparent Baptismal Testimony Form.

MARRIAGE: Contact the parish office at least 1 year in advance of the wedding date to make arrangements.

ANointing OF THE SICK: If you have family members who are ill, anticipating surgery or weakened because of prolonged illness or advanced age, contact the parish office for assistance.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 3 - 3:45p.m. or by appointment in the church.

COMMUNION CALLS: Parishioners who are sick or disabled may call the parish office to arrange for the Holy Eucharist to be brought to them at home.

~Mass Intentions~

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH ~ ST. JOSAPHAT

8:00a.m. Herbert Jurgensen, III

4:30p.m. Special Intention

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH ~ ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

8:30a.m. Rev. Father Richard Jakubauskas by Barbara Vaitkunas

10:30a.m. William Rynders by His Wife

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH ~ ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT

7:00a.m. Rev. Paul Lemire

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH ~ ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

7:00a.m. Paulette Breault

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH ~ ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

7:00a.m. Mildred Brown Seventh Anniversary by a Friend

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH ~ DEDICATION OF CHURCHES OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

7:00a.m. Richard Burton

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH ~ ST. AGNES OF ASSISI

8:00a.m. Daniel A. Keesler

4:30p.m. Aunts of Maria Gerrol by Maria Gerrol

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH ~ ST. ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE

8:30a.m. Rev. John F. Gee Anniversary Remembrance by Noel Family

10:30a.m. David Phillips Thirty Third Anniversary by Phillips and Krug Family

~Let Us Pray For~

David Anthony, Kayla Bowes, Michele Burke-Pellegrini, Doris Carver, Louie Costagna, Dean Michael Collins, Shirley Connor, Ted Cook, Christine Cote, Gail Craig, Patricia Darrah, Jacob DeCarolus, David DiGeronimo, Roger Desautels, Kevin Dobson, Richard Dobkowski, Elaine Doherty, Sadie Dutton, Paul Dyke, Raymond Fluet, Joan Fouhy, Bob Fuller, Suzanne Gird, Lori Girouard, Therese Gosland, Deacon Jim Graves, Ed Handlin, Mary Hannon, Robert Hehir, Ronald Jablanski, Elijah Johnson, Kim Johnson, Maureen Jones, Edward LaConto, Jean LaConto, Larry, Donna and Michael Langevin, Roger and Rosalie LaCroix, Alice Leduc, Peter Letourneau, Richard Levansavich, Sr., Michael McGrail, Max Mullen, Gary Nickerson, Michael O'Connell, Mary Lou Paulli, Peggy Patenaude, Kaisse Pinard, John Power, Theresa Power, Anthony Real, Edward J. Rutkowski, Joseph Sbrogna, Raymond Scanlon, Kathy Stasiatis, Scott Staruk, David Tatro, and Bonnie Turner. For all the men and women serving in our country's military.

~Collections 11/6/22

Sunday Collections	\$ 4,560.50
Craft Fair Receipts	\$ 1,162.75
Legacy of Hope	\$ 3,630.87
Donation Kateri's Kitchen	\$ 200.00
Monthly Reno, Mass Intentions, Coffee Shop	\$ 419.00
Support Schools, Propagation of Faith, All Saints	\$ 468.00
Online donations	\$ 1,439.00
Craft Fair Rental	\$ 35.00
Total:	\$ 11,915.12

Coffee and Donuts

Join us after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses for Coffee and Donuts! All are welcome!

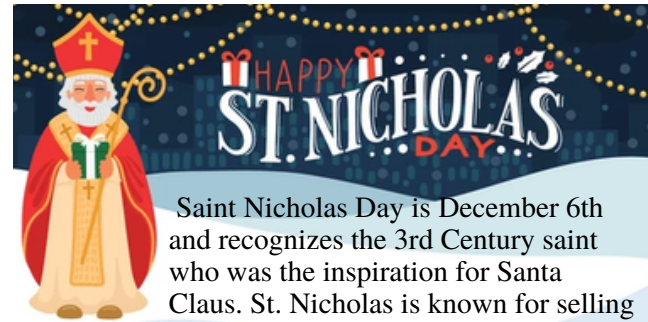
~Newly Baptized~

On Sunday, November 6th, 2022, Nathaniel John Freeman was baptized by Rev. Frederick D. Fraini, III at North American Martyrs Church. Nathaniel is the son of James Freeman and Jacquelyn (LaSalle) Freeman. His Godparents are Patrick Rocheleau and JoAnne Payne. It is with tremendous joy that we welcome Nathaniel to the Catholic Church as our newest brother in Christ!

~First Reconciliation ~



Twenty four children from our parish will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, November 14th at 6pm. Please keep them in your prayers!



Saint Nicholas Day is December 6th and recognizes the 3rd Century saint who was the inspiration for Santa Claus. St. Nicholas is known for selling all his possessions and giving his money to the poor.

As tradition states, children leave their shoes out in the hopes to find gifts on the morning of December 6th. The spirit of St. Nicholas Eve and day is one focused on giving over receiving, remembering those less fortunate. St. Nicholas loved children and now he will be visiting North American Martyrs!

On December 5th at 6:30pm we will welcome St. Nicholas for cookies and milk! He will be reading us a bedtime story and there will be a chance for pictures with him too! Kids are invited to come in their favorite Christmas Pajamas! Please bring a non-perishable food item for Kateri's Kitchen! Sign-up at <https://namartyrsaurn.org/stnicholas>

~Religious Ed News~

NOVEMBER 13TH

Grades 1-5: 9:30am-10:15am | 11:30am-12:15pm

Grades 6-8: 5pm-6:30pm

Grades 9-11: 6:30pm-8pm

NOVEMBER 20TH

Grades 1-5: 9:30am-10:15am & 11:30am-12:15pm

Grades 6-11: No class

~Fr. Fraini - Vacation~

Fr. Fred will leave for his annual vacation beginning Wednesday, November 16th. Please contact Susan in the parish office if you should need anything.

WHY DO I NEED A BODY IN HEAVEN?

Dear Parish Family,

It never ceases to amaze me how many wonderful questions I receive from faithful parishioners on the way out of Mass. Last week, at the conclusion of our Saturday vigil Mass, one parishioner asked me what the significance of our receiving a glorified body in Heaven was. In essence, why do we need a body in Heaven? Needless to say, I have compiled some thought-provoking material which may serve to help us all understand the necessity of our bodily resurrections!

If you were stranded on a deserted island and only had two things to read, what would they be? Would you choose a magazine article that impacted your life? A chapter from Scripture? Your favorite comic books? A love letter from your spouse or family member? What could sustain you as you read it over and over again?

You might have already guessed where I'm going with this: I would read the venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen's novel, *Life of Christ*. This literary and theological masterpiece radically reconfigured my life because it shifted my focus from life here and now to my ultimate destiny – and then back to life here and now.

So often in teaching the Catholic faith, we operate from a 3-part framework: God's original plan for man's happiness, how we messed it up through sin, and how Christ's death on the cross redeems and restores us to God's original plan so we can be happy again. But we've left out a major element, and perhaps the most significant dimension to human life – what is our ultimate purpose? Are we created for happiness only in this life? Is death the end where we cease to exist? Did death extinguish Abraham Lincoln, Moses, Socrates, and Grandma Betty? Hopefully, something within you rebels at this thought – that death is stronger than life, that the intimate bonds we experience with our loved ones disintegrate when we (or they) expire. If this were true, then eat, drink, and be merry! Acquire all the power, privilege, and material possessions you can! Avoid sacrifice, suffering, and demanding relational commitments because at any moment your dissolution may be at hand.

As Catholics, the good news is that death is not the end of the story. Love is stronger than death. Intimate relational bonds continue after death because our personhood doesn't disappear but stands out to an even greater and fuller measure. Here's what St. John Paul II wrote in *Theology of the Body* A67: "This intimacy [with God in eternity] ... will not absorb man's personal subjectivity [personhood], but, quite on the contrary, will make it emerge in an incomparably greater and fuller measure." Imagine you, just you, projected onto a cinema screen. How big are you? Huge! Every part of you is magnified. You become even more distinct and authentically you. Your personhood is displayed prominently in all its glory, not minimized or diminished. If this cinema example is an image of our heavenly perfection, does this mean your soul will be gigantic in heaven? The short answer is "no," because as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said in his encyclical, "God is Love": "Yet it is neither the spirit alone nor the body alone that loves: it is man, the person, a unified creature composed of body and soul, who loves. Only when both dimensions are truly united does man attain his full stature" (no. 5).

Only when both dimensions – body and soul are united forever in an eternal embrace of love – will you reach your full authenticity, your full stature and perfection. This is why every Sunday we profess, "I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!" Do you realize that when those words escape your lips, you are professing belief in the resurrection of your body? The resurrection of the body is not an abstract concept, like saying "I believe the color blue exists." This latter statement is impersonal. It exists as true apart from you (unless, of course, you are a Smurf). On the contrary, the resurrection of the body is a statement about your personhood, about the fulfillment of your human nature. You are a unified creature of both body and soul, which means your eternal happiness must include the resurrection of your body. Put briefly, your body has an eternal relationship with your soul that will not be discarded in eternity, but recovered and perfected.

Our everyday life, however, testifies to a different reality. Death, which evacuates the soul from the body, crashes into our human experience. We stare at the lifeless corpse of a loved one, trying to make sense out of how it is still his or her body, but now absent of the power to communicate his or her person. We feel a deep sense of loss, but quickly remind ourselves that the body is only a shell and that the soul is the true nature of the person and someday, God willing, we will rejoice again in the presence of our loved one's soul in heaven.

May I invite you to reconsider this perspective that the soul is the true nature of the person and the body is only a temporary "rental" while here on Earth? Scripture unequivocally states that death is the result of sin. "The wages of sin is death," St. Paul reminds us in Romans 6:23. Death is not God's original plan for our "true self." Sin and death introduced an unnatural separation into our human nature, into our personal selfhood. Death, we could say, divorces the two lovers of soul and body from each other and thrusts the soul into an artificial state of separation from the body.

This is why the work of salvation is not complete until Christ comes again. At Christ's Second Coming, when all of creation is fully redeemed, our bodies will be raised, glorified, and re-united to our souls for all eternity. St. Paul alludes to this eschatological moment in Romans 8:22-23 when he observes, "We know the whole creation has been groaning with labor pains together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons..." And do you recall how St. Paul finishes this sentence? In other words, how does he describe what we groan inwardly for? It is not the redemption of our souls, but, he says, "the redemption of our bodies." Why? Why the redemption of our bodies? Why is the work of redemption not complete when the soul enters into eternity? I know thousands of people who would be deliriously delighted to shed their bodies at death and to think of themselves as a happy disembodied soul or consciousness for all eternity. Why does all creation groan and why should we groan as we await the redemption of our bodies?

Because matter matters. Embodiment matters. Masculinity and femininity matter all the way into eternity. If the deepest cry of the human heart is to be loved, and if eternity is where we are loved in the absolute fullness of our personhood, and if human nature is by its very nature a unity of body and soul, then our eternal happiness can't be a state of the soul alone, divorced from the body. We must have a glorified body in order to experience the fullness of love, the fullness of total self-giving of our embodied person [our selfhood] toward which we have been maturing, laboring, straining our whole life long. It is the whole embodied person who is destined for salvation, not a soul separated from the body.

This brings us back to *Gaudium et Spes*, no. 22: "Christ...fully reveals man to man himself and makes his supreme calling clear". This is true not only of our life on earth where we seek to imitate Christ by living his new commandment to "love one another as I have loved you" through a total gift of self to God and neighbor, but it is also true of our eternal life. Jesus Christ fully reveals our supreme or ultimate calling: Christ's body was raised from the dead as the "first fruits" (1 Cor 15:20) and principal witness to our fully redeemed state. Right now, in heaven, Christ's human body is fully glorified, divinized! His human body is gloriously saturated, penetrated, permeated by divinity. And that divinized human body is intimately united to the Inner Life of the Trinity.

Can we let this truth penetrate the deepest recesses of our being? Smack in the midst of Divine Trinitarian Self-giving and receiving is the glorified human body of Christ, fully participating in the Trinitarian Communion of Persons. God and man don't just sit down at table together; they intimately share One Divine Life in the Glorified Body of Christ for all eternity. Likewise, our supreme calling, our eternal vocation, is to participate in this Divine Dance of Trinitarian Self-Giving and Receiving for all eternity in our glorified bodies!

God Love You! Rev. Father Frederick D. Fraini, III



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